CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for [removing ink-accepting areas] erasing an image from a printing master, [by laser ablation, characterized in that the printing master comprises a substrate which comprises a support and a base layer] the printing master comprising a support, a base layer and ink-accepting areas provided on the base layer, wherein the base layer contains a crosslinked hydrophilic binder and a metal oxide, the method comprising the steps of removing the ink-accepting areas by laser ablation.

2. (Currently Amended) A method of lithographic printing with a reusable substrate by
   (a) providing a substrate comprising a support and a base layer which contains a crosslinked hydrophilic binder and a metal oxide;
   (b) applying one or more layer(s) on the base layer, thereby obtaining an imaging material;
   (c) making a printing master having ink-accepting areas by image-wise exposure of the imaging material to heat or light and optionally processing the imaging material;
   (d) printing;
   (e) removing the ink-accepting areas from the printing master by laser ablation; and
   (f) repeating steps [(a)] (b) through (d).

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the imaging material contains an image-recording layer which comprises hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles or an aryldiazosulfonate polymer.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein during step (e) ablation debris and/or fumes are removed by a vacuum device.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the laser is an infrared laser.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the laser is a pulsed laser.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the metal is Ti, Zr, Hf, or a mixture thereof.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the base layer further comprises a hydroxide of the metal.

A3 (concluded)

9. (Original) The method according to claim 2 wherein the support is a plastic support, an aluminum support, or a laminate of a plastic and an aluminum support.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9 wherein the aluminum support is a grained and anodized aluminum support.

11. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein step (f) is repeated at least 5 times.

12. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein step (f) is repeated at least 5 times.